system and whether there is a proposal to include the State in it;

(d) what is the present system of postal distribution in various parts of Sikkim; and

(e) whether there is any other system being contemplated for Sikkim and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The 1985 edition corrected upto 1-4-1985.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a). Pin Code of POs in Sikkim have been shown under West Bengal Circle, in as much as Sikkim is part of West Bengal Postal Circle.

(d) Mails posted in the POs in Sikkim State are dealt within Gangtok Sorting Office. Inward Mail for Sikkim State are sorted in Gangtok Sorting and Siliguri RMS, which is the air Sorting Office. Mails for and from Gangtok are conveyed by the Mail Motor Service to various POs in the State and to Siliguri.

(e) No, Sir.

Rail Traffic between Ahmedabad and Vadodara

604. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instructions have been issued by the Railway Board to udertake a fresh survey of traffic congestion between Ahmedabad and Vadodara;

(b) whether Raiways propose to introduce Electrical Multiple Unit or local trains hauled by electric locomotive to ease the traffic of daily commuters on this section;

(c) whether more inter-city trains are likely to be introduced between Ahmedabad-Vadodara-Surat to give relief to the passengers travelling on long distance trains; and

(d) whether the Department has any other plan to ease the traffic bottle-neck in this section of Vadodara Division and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No fresh survey has been ordered.

(b) There is no proposal to introduce EMU trains on the section at present. However, commuter trains hauled by Eelectric locomotives are already running between Ahmedabad and Vadodara.

(c) and (d) There is at present, no proposal to introduce any new train on the section due to line capacity constraints. Adequate bus services are also available between these two cities.

Compensation to vicitims of Pan Am Aircraft Hijacked in Karachi

605. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names and addresses of Indians travelling by Pan Am which was hijacked in Karachi on 5th September, 1986, who were killed and whose next of the kin have not so far been given compensation;

(b) what are the names and addresses of Indians travelling by the flight mentioned above who were in-

jured and who have not been paid compensation so far;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (d) According to available information, a total of 220 Indian passengers were travelling by this flight. Out of these, 13 were killed and 76 were injured.

The matter regarding payment of compensation is between the Airline and the passengers/next of kin.

Import of Digital switching system

606. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to import digital switching systems for handling telecommunication traffic in major districts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed system is likely to be installed and to what extent the consumers will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to import digital trunk switches for the eight cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune.

(c) The proposed system are likely to be installed by the year 1990 progressively. With the introduction of these systems the consumers will be benefited as follows:

(i) Trunk calls will be tried strictly in order of priority and booking time.

(ii) Handling of trunk calls will be speeded up.

(iii) It will be possible to readily find out the status of trunk call and answer any enquiries about the call quickly.

(iv) Valuation of trunk call tickets for billing purposes will be speeded up.

Air-taxi Services

607. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the air taxi scheme which was approved by Government during last year has not worked properly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The response to the Air Taxi Service Scheme has not been encouraging. Government is contemplating modification of the scheme to make it more attractive.

Demurrage charged at Ports

608. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state what is the amount of demurrage charged at each of the major ports in the country during the last three years?